

District Court Judge

Stephanie Rhoades, Third Judicial District



DATE OF BIRTH: September 24, 1958

PLACE OF BIRTH: Newton, Massachusetts

MAILING ADDRESS: 825 West Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 16 years
Anchorage September 1986 to present

EDUCATION:

Needham High School (Needham, Massachusetts), Diploma;
University of Massachusetts, College of Public and Community
Service (Boston, Massachusetts), 1983, B.A. Legal Services;
Northeastern University School of Law (Boston, Massachusetts),
1986, J.D.

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:

District Court Judge, 1992-present; Assistant District Attorney,
District Attorney's Office (Anchorage), 1988-1992; law clerk,
Alaska Supreme Court, 1986-1987.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

Anchorage Mental Health Court.

SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:

Compeer, Southcentral Counseling Center.

STATEMENT:

It has been my honor since August of 1992 to serve the people of the State of Alaska as a district court judge.

The vast majority of you who have contact with any court in the state have contact with the district court.

Many people appear in the district court without attorneys. I am committed to providing individuals who seek to have legal issues resolved in the court with the same kind of access to the justice system that individuals with lawyers have.

Many of you have or will serve as jurors. I am committed to treating jurors with courtesy and appreciation for their service.

I strive to treat all people who come to the court - individuals, attorneys, jurors and others - with respect and fairness and to assist them in understanding and using their court system.

If retained, I will continue to uphold my oath of office by providing the public with an accessible, fair and impartial forum for dispute resolution.

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Stephanie Rhoades, District Court, Anchorage

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Rhoades to be **Qualified** and recommends (4-1) that the public vote **Yes** to retain her as a district court judge.

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. A survey of 2,860 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Rhoades on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Rhoades 3.6 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. She scored highest in the categories of controls courtroom (3.9) and promptness in making decisions (3.9). She scored lowest in courtesy (3.1) and understanding and compassion (3.3).

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	CourtWatch Survey
Legal Ability	3.7	---	---	---	---
Impartiality	3.5	4.3	4.8	4.1	---
Integrity	3.8	4.3	---	4.1	---
Temperament	3.4	4.3	4.9	4.0	---
Diligence	3.9	4.5	---	4.3	---
Special Skills	3.7	4.4	---	---	---
Overall	3.6	4.3	4.9	4.0	3.9

Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

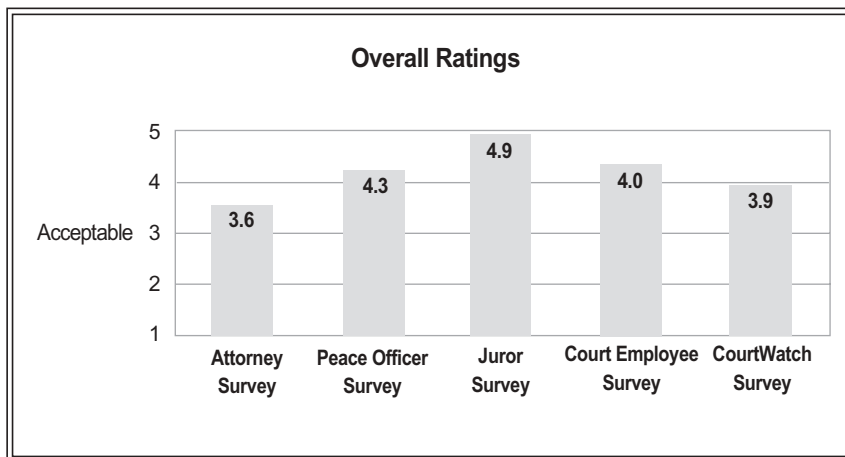
Rating Scale

5.0 = Excellent
4.0 = Good
3.0 = Acceptable
2.0 = Deficient
1.0 = Unacceptable

A survey of 1,704 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Rhoades on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Rhoades 4.3 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. She scored highest in the category of promptness in making decisions (4.5). She scored 4.3 or better in all categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Rhoades in 2000 and 2001 rated her 4.9 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated her 4.0 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. The CourtWatch Report prepared by Victims for Justice gave Judge Rhoades a 3.9 overall rating on a scale of 5.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



Recommendation: Vote YES to retain Judge Rhoades

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526) for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at:

www.ajc.state.ak.us

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